

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/938,516

Examiner

Kaveh Abrishamkar

Applicant(s)

GASSHO, KAZUHITO

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on 03/06/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3,5,6,9,11-14,19-22,24-30,32,34,36-38,42-47,49,51,53,54 and 57.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

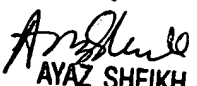
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 05/26/2006.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.


AYAZ SHEIKH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Peter Martine (Reg. No. 32,043) on May 26, 2006.
3. The application has been amended as follows:
4. Claims 4,7,8,10,15-18, 23,31,33,35,39-41,48,50,52,55, and 56 are cancelled by virtue of this Examiner's Amendment.
5. Claims 1,5,6,11,12,24,28,32,36,49,51,53, and 54 are amended (as shown by underlining) as given below:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended):

A print system, comprising:

a content server;

a plurality of printers connectable to the content server via a network; and

a client computer connectable to the content server via the network;

wherein the content server comprises:

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a content database which collects a plurality of kinds of content original data;

a reader which reads content original data of a kind selected by a client as content data from the content database;

a printer specifying information requester which transmits a request for transmission of printer specifying information from the content server to a printer which is selected by the client computer, wherein the printer specifying information includes a printer identifier to specify the printer;

wherein the printer comprises:

a printer specifying information transmitter which transmits the printer specifying information including the printer identifier from the printer to the content server based on the request from the printer specifying information requester;

wherein the content server further comprises:

a print job generator which generates print job data including at least the content data and the printer specifying information based on the content data read by the reader and the received printer specifying information; and

a print job data transmitter which transmits the print job data from the content server to the printer;

a print job data receiver which receives the print job data transmitted from the content server to the printer;

wherein the printer further comprises:

a print job data receiver which receives the print job data transmitted from the content server;

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a judging portion which reads the printer identifier included in the printer specifying information of the print job data and judges whether the printer identifier coincides with its own printer identifier; and

a print executor which executes print of the print job data in the printer only when the judging portion judges that the printer identifier included in the print job data coincides with its own printer identifier;

wherein the print job data includes at least one first copy guard code inserted at a specific position and one or a plurality of second copy guard codes inserted dispersively in the content data as required depending on a data length of the content data,

wherein the print job data generator generates the first copy guard code including at least the printer specifying information and a first code pointer indicating a position of a next second copy guard and inserts the first copy guard code at the specific position, and when the content data exists at a position indicated by the first code pointer, inserts a second copy guard code including at least a second code pointer which indicates a position of a second copy guard code next to the next second copy guard code at the position, and repeats the insertion of the second copy guard codes until the entire length of the content data is covered, and

wherein the first and second code pointers are determined randomly every time these first and second code pointers are generated.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended):

The print system according to claim 1, wherein the content server encrypts the first code pointer.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended):

The print system according to claim 1, wherein the content server encrypts the first code pointer and holds a code pointer decrypting key which is a decrypting key of the first code pointer.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended):

The print system according to claim 9, wherein the content server encrypts the first code pointer.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended):

The print system according to claim 9, wherein the content server encrypts the first code pointer and holds a code pointer decrypting key which is a decrypting key of the first code pointer.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended):

The print system according to claim 19, wherein the content server encrypts the first code pointer.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended):

A printer connected to a content server via a network, comprising:

a printer specifying information transmitter which transmits printer specifying information including a printer identifier to specify the printer based on a request from the content server, wherein the printer is selected by a client in the content server to which the client is connected;

a receiver which receives print job data having at least content data and the print specifying information including the printer identifier from the content server, wherein the content data is selected by the client in the content server;

a judging portion which reads the printer identifier included in the printer specifying information of the print job data and judges whether this printer identifier coincides with its own printer identifier or not; and

a print executor which executes print of the print job data only when the judging portion judges that the printer identifier included in the print job data coincides with its own printer identifier;

wherein the print job data includes at least one first copy guard code inserted at a specific position and one or a plurality of second copy guard codes inserted dispersively in the content data as required depending on a data length of the content data,

wherein the first copy guard code includes at least the printer specifying information and a first code pointer indicating a position of a next second copy guard code,

wherein the second copy guard codes each include at least a second code pointer which indicates a position of a second copy guard code next thereto, and

wherein the first and second code pointers are determined randomly every time these first and second code pointers are generated.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended):

The printer according to claim 28, wherein the first code pointer is encrypted by the content server.

Claim 36 (Currently Amended):

The printer according to claim 34, wherein the first code pointer is encrypted by the content server.

Claim 49 (Currently Amended):

The printer according to claim 44, wherein the first code pointer is encrypted by the content server and a decrypting key of this encryption is used as a protection removing key necessary to remove the protection.

Claim 51 (Currently Amended):

A content server, comprising:
a content database which collects a plurality of kinds of content original data;
a reader which reads content original data of a kind selected by a user as content data from the content database;

a printer specifying information requester which requests transmission of printer specifying information to a printer which is selected by the client, wherein the printer is connected to the content server and the printer specifying information includes a printer identifier to specify the printer;

a printer specifying information receiver which receives the printer specifying information from the printer;

a print job data generator which generates print job data including at least the content data and the printer specifying information based on the content data read by the reader and the received printer specifying information; and

a print job data transmitter which transmits the print job data to the printer,
wherein the print job data includes at least one first copy guard code inserted at a specific position and one or a plurality of second copy guard codes inserted dispersively in the content data as required depending on a data length of the content data,

wherein the print job data generator comprises:

a first copy guard code generator which generates the first copy guard code including at least the printer specifying information and a first code pointer indicating a position of a next second copy guard code and inserts the first copy guard code at the specific position; and

a second copy guard code generator which, when the content data exists at a position indicated by the first code pointer, inserts a second copy guard code including at least a second code pointer which indicates a position of a second copy guard code

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next to the next second copy guard code at the position, and repeats the insertion of the second copy guard codes until the entire length of the content data is covered, and wherein the first and second code pointers are determined randomly every time these first and second code pointers are generated.

Claim 53 (Currently Amended):

The content server according to claim 51, further comprising a first encryptor which encrypts the first code pointer.

Claim 53 (Currently Amended):

The content server according to claim 51, further comprising a first encryptor which encrypts the first code pointer.

Claim 53 (Currently Amended):

The content server according to claim 51, further comprising a second encryptor which encrypts the first code pointer and holds a code pointer decrypting key which is a decrypting key of the first code pointer in the content server.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
7. The above mentioned claims are allowable over prior arts because the CPA (Cited Prior Art) of record fails to teach or render obvious the claims limitations in combination with the specific added limitations, as recited in independent claims 1, 28, and 51, and subsequent dependent claims.
8. As per claims 1,28, and 51, the CPA fails to teach or render obvious the limitation of the print job data including at least one first copy guard code including at least the printer specifying information and a first code pointer indicating a position of a next second copy guard and inserts the first copy guard code at the specific position, and when the content data exists at a position indicated by the first code pointer, inserts a second copy guard code including at least a second code pointer which indicates a position of a second copy guard code next to the next second copy guard code at the position, and repeats the insertion of the second copy guard codes until the entire length of the content data is covered.
9. The insertion of a first copy guard code, including at least the printer specifying information, and second copy guard codes provides a system that insures that only the printer designated can print the data, and provides a second layer of security, by providing copy guards which need to be removed before normal printing can occur.

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10. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kaveh Abrishamkar whose telephone number is 571-272-3786. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

5/27/2006


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